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Managing Water in the West

Water Conservation Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans

- **Reclamation Reform Act 1982 (RRA)**
 - Required Agricultural and M & I water contractors to provide Water Management Plans (Plans)
 - Each Plan shall contain definite goals, water conservation measures, and a time schedule to meet these objectives
 - Plans need to be updated every 5 years

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Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans

- **Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992**
 - Required establishment of an office on water conservation and best management practices
 - This office was required to develop Standard Criteria for Evaluating Plans and must review the Criteria at least every three years

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Standard Criteria

- **Management approval**
- **Public scoping**
- **Public response**
- **Finalized**

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Standard Criteria

- **Criteria include the following:**
 - **District description**
 - History, Facilities, Water Measurement, Pricing and Billing, etc.
 - **Inventory of Water Resources**
 - Surface and Groundwater Supplies, Conjunctive Use, Water Shortage Contingency Plans, etc.
 - **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
 - Agricultural and Urban

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Best Management Practices Agricultural

5 required BMPs

- Water Measurement
- Water Conservation Coordinator
- Promote Water Management Services
- Pricing Structure
- Evaluate and Improve Contractor Pump Efficiencies

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Best Management Practices Agricultural

12 Exemptible BMPs

- Facilitate alternative land use
- Facilitate use of recycled water
- Facilitate financing programs for improved on-farm water management
- Incentive pricing
- Line or pipe ditches and canals
- Regulatory reservoirs
- Increase flexibility of water ordering and delivery
- Spill and tailwater recovery systems
- Plan to measure outflow
- Optimize conjunctive use
- Automate Canal Structures
- GIS

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Best Management Practices Urban

- **3 Compliance methods**
 - **Traditional BMP list (widgets)**
 - **Standard BMPs by category**
 - **Foundational**
 - » **Education**
 - » **Utility Operations**
 - **Programmatic**
 - » **Landscape**
 - » **Residential**
 - » **CII**
 - **Flex Track**
 - **Allows agency to fit program to their needs**
 - **Must implement Foundational**

Best Management Practices Urban

- **3 Compliance methods, con't**
 - GPCD (gallons per capita per day) option
 - 18% reduction by 2018
- **Reporting website at www.cuwcc.org under construction**
- **WMP due 6 months from website and β testing complete**
 - Allow agencies to fully utilize flex track/GPCD options

Significant Changes to the Criteria

- Reformatted, streamlined, easier to read
- Consequences of Non-Compliance
- Plans are to be submitted electronically

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Significant Changes to the Criteria

- **Removed one required BMP:**
 - Evaluate Policies of Regulatory Agencies Affecting the Contractor and Identify Policies that Inhibit Good Water Management
 - This component is now addressed under Section 1: Description of the District
- **Agricultural BMP 2: Designate a Water Conservation Coordinator**
 - Need to provide additional information including job description and duties
- **Water measurement – documentation in support of verifying measurement accuracy (e.g. +/-6%) must be submitted**

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Planning and Implementation Resources

- Updated Guidebook (available May 2011)
- Website-- <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/>
- Area Office Representatives
- Grant opportunities
 - WaterSMART
 - Water Conservation Field Services
 - CALFED WUE

Other Considerations

- **SBx 7-7**
 - 2 Methods for compliance are based upon BMPs and GPCD option
 - Ag plans accepted by USBR also comply with State Water Management Plan requirements
- In 2012, Plans due every 5 years regardless of approval date

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Questions?

- **Contact your Area Office Water Conservation Specialist with questions or contact me:**

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